

REMARKS

The Notice of Allowance dated December 3, 2009 ("Office Action"), has been received and carefully considered.

I. THE EXAMINER INTERVIEW

At the outset, the undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on November 16, 2009, during which agreement was reached on an Examiner's Amendment, which is reflected herein.

II. THE ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS 1-16

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication on page 2 of the Office Action that claims 1-16 have been allowed.

III. THE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

An Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying PTO-1449 form are filed herein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge consideration of the references identified in that Information Disclosure Statement by initialing the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialed form to the undersigned.

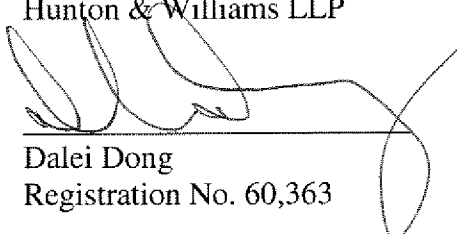
VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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